

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
JANUARY 19, 2023**

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

WORKSHOP ON DRAFT SCIENTIFIC BASIS REPORT SUPPLEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER, DELTA, AND TRIBUTARIES UPDATE TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/ SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN.

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public workshop to discuss and receive comments on a Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements (VAs) for the Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributaries Update to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan) (Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement). A notice with additional information regarding the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement, workshop, and public comment process is available https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/comments/docs/2023/notice_va_sbr.pdf

The State Water Board protects water quality that affects beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta in part through its Bay-Delta Plan. The Bay-Delta Plan identifies beneficial uses of water, water quality objectives to protect those beneficial uses, a program of implementation to achieve the water quality objective, and monitoring and evaluation provisions to assess the effectiveness of those measures. In December 2018, the State Water Board updated the Lower San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity components of the Bay-Delta Plan. The State Water Board is also considering amendments to other components of the Bay-Delta Plan focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries, Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows (Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan).

In 2017, the State Water Board finalized a [Scientific Basis Report in Support of possible New and Modified Requirements for Inflows from the Sacramento River and its Tributaries and Eastside Tributaries to the Delta, Delta Outflows, Cold Water Habitat, and Interior Delta Flows](#) (Scientific Basis Report). The Scientific Basis Report describes the science supporting staff proposed Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan. Thereafter, in July 2018, State Water Board staff released a [Framework for a possible Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan](#), including Sacramento River and tributary and Delta eastside tributary (including Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers) inflows and cold water habitat measures, Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows. In March 2022, the State Water Board received a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) Advancing a Term Sheet for VAs](#) to update and implement the Bay-Delta Plan. Subsequently, the State Water Board received updates to the MOU to include additional

parties. Signatories to the MOU include several state and federal agencies and water users (collectively referred to as VA Parties). State Water Board staff is now preparing a Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document (SED) in support of possible Sacramento/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan, including the Framework and VAs.

The Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement has been prepared to document the science supporting the proposed provisions included in the VAs and serves as a supplement to the 2017 Scientific Basis Report. The Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement was developed by State Water Board staff in collaboration with staff from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement was released for public review on January 5, 2023. Following receipt of public comments, the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement will be revised as appropriate and a final Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement will be submitted for scientific peer review pursuant to the requirements of California Public Health and Safety Code section 57004, which requires that the scientific basis of any statewide plan, basin plan, plan amendment, guideline, policy, or regulation undergo external scientific peer review before adoption. Following peer review, the report may be further revised.

POLICY ISSUE

Discuss the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time. Board workshop.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time. Board workshop.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None at this time. Board workshop.